3: Hinder G-5 (1939-1942) 1944 AF15 East China AF15

435 262 633 members of the Chinese community, purchased broken rice and sold it through rice shops to the needy through eight periods of several weeks each. A total of 223,200 bags was distributed, the organisation making a contribution of more than two million dollars, the difference between the cost of the rice and the returns through sales at lower prices. In a similar effort to supply food to the poor, from February 1940 onward, the larger Chinese flour mills made available several thousand bags of flour daily at considerably less than the market price, to be sold in small quantities, also through shops regularly selling flour. More than two and a half million bags of flour were thus provided. Several importing firms also played their part in handing over ten per cent of all incoming flour consignments, totalling 185,000 bags, to reliable dealers for sale to actual consumers. Important as these efforts were they could not ease to any great extent the difficult situation.

●741 262 146 The very substantial arrivals of rice and wheat from the American Red Cross for relief purposes also played their part. This grain was distributed to organisations caring for numbers of needy people. Many refugee camps, hospitals, and institutions caring for children were the recipients of this food. The form in which the wheat came proved to be particularly suitable. It was "cracked wheat," wheat submitted to the first processes of milling only, consisting of the whole grain merely cracked. In consequence the precious germ of the wheat was still present, containing within it the important vitamin B complex which is significant in nutrition and in the prevention of such recognised dietary deficiency diseases as beriberi. The nutritional results for those fortunate enough to receive it were dramatic. Instead of gross signs of deficiency and the less dangerous but serious malnutrition which were everywhere prevalent, by comparison a glowing health appeared in institutions using the cracked wheat, though it could not provide all the needed protective foods.

435 633 439 262 In August 1941, the Chinese Government ruled that foreign exchange would be obtainable only through its Stabilisation Board. It then appeared that an instrument might become available which would give the Council actual power to control prices of imported staple products other than rice which was already controlled through the agreement with the Hongkong authorities. The Board was sympathetic to the view that exchange for essential commodities

3: Hinder G-5 (1933-1942) 1944 AF15 East China AF15

of a foster home programme were available. In this situation it was felt that a stimulation of the practice of adoption would be beneficial, and this policy was embarked upon.

In every case of adoption arranged or recommended by the Child Protection Service, documents of approval were given to the adoptive parents. These papers were granted only after all preliminary steps (including a medical examination and a subsequent six-month trial period) had been observed. The purpose of this procedure was to formalise adoptive relationships by official approval. It was hoped thereby eventually to create the conception that adoption in accordance with Chinese law should be encouraged.

There are other phases of the care of children which, it was felt, might rightly be termed the concern of the administration even in the peculiar situation in which the Settlement found itself. What is well known as family case work, the effort to assist a family to make adjustments and to solve its problems, was scarcely known in Shanghai, at least in any formal way. Many cases were known where children were delinquent, or begging, the root cause of which lay in the economic situation of the family. Often a child might well have been saved from a future life of crime if the family situation could have been solved. In general, the view was taken that, with the numbers of homeless children as great as they are, children with homes should not be cared for in institutions. Only the children in institutions had the attention of the authorities. The attention of certain social agencies, notably the Pullers' Mutual Aid Association, and some socially minded Chinese leaders, was turned in the direction of family case work as a means of serving the city's needy children.

THERE WAS AN ALMOST complete lack of recreational facilities for even the children of well-to-do parents, a consequence of the congestion in the city. There were some children's parks where younger children went, usually in care of *amahs* as nurses, and to which some more privileged older children also resorted. It was hoped that some beginning might be made with the provision in these of organised play under trained recreation leaders. A revival of a plan formerly instituted by the Joint Committee of Shanghai Women's Organisations could have obtained the use of open spaces

3: Hinder G-5 (1933-1942) 1944 AF15 East China AF15

for playgrounds whenever through building demolition or some other chance an area might be temporarily cleared.

The financing of children's institutions in a time of rapidly rising costs proved difficult. Some were stimulated at times to make efforts to improve the diet. "An egg a child a week," "some oil each day" have been aims which in some instances have been met, only to find that the cost of eggs has doubled, and that of oil trebled, so that the former ration again became the rule. There was felt to be a need for the organisation in Shanghai of a Children's Community Chest, when the citizens would be challenged to give largely and generously to its children, and all organisations caring for children might benefit. Leadership in the community to better the situation of its children was not lacking, as the extensive services for homeless children show.

THE WORSENING OF the economic situation in the city following the outbreak of Pacific hostilities was followed, inevitably, by the abandonment of many children on the streets by those unable to care for them. Institutions which down through the years had been able to care for all children whom the police had taken in, found themselves unable to take more. Their financial situation with a steeply rising cost of living and the difficulty of obtaining essential commodities in sufficient quantities precluded the enlargement of their responsibilities. The Division was therefore faced with the task of finding temporary care for the abandoned children and of evolving a general plan to deal with the issue. A camp which had been established in 1940 by the Salvation Army with the assistance of the Council to try to rehabilitate street beggars was used as the temporary place of shelter, and a programme of home finding with a staff of fifteen social workers was embarked upon.

"Home finding" had two aspects. It sought to trace the natural homes or the relatives of the abandoned children. By every conceivable device social workers tried to obtain a clue from them as to their former life. If a child had been lost, the reunion between the child and the parents if the latter could be traced was often a touching one. If the child had been abandoned, effort was made to solve the family problem in some other way, for at all costs that complete break with its own family must be avoided which must otherwise mean a lifetime of standing alone. It was not easy